

Arizona Department of Education
Character Education Matching Grant
Pre-Approved Providers
Fiscal Year 2009

This document contains contact information and a brief description of services provided by each of the following Pre-approved Providers (PAP). You must contact your PAP of choice prior to completing the grant application to determine exact cost and nature of services and/or materials you plan to purchase.

Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life
Character Counts!
Character First
Creative Spirit
Ignite
Premier, A Member of the School Specialty Family
Wise Skills

Boy Scouts of America, Grand Canyon Council Learning for Life

Contacts: Michael de los Santos, Adriana Clifton
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E-mail mdelossantos@grandcanyonbsa.org or aclifton@lflmail.org
Website: www.learning-for-life.org
Name of Program: Learning for Life
Target Audience: K-12 Youth and Educators

Description:

Learning for Life is a program designed to support schools and other youth-serving organizations in their efforts toward preparing our young people to successfully handle the complexities of today's society and to enhance their self-confidence, motivation, and self-worth. Learning for Life also helps youth develop social skills, life skills, strong positive personal values, and assists in the development of their character. The program prepares youth to make ethical decisions that will help them achieve their full potential.

Character Counts

Contacts: Justin Lu, Assistant Director of CHARACTER COUNTS!

Address: 9841 Airport Blvd., Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Phone # (310) 846-4800 (800) 711-2670

E-mail jlu@jiethics.org

Website: www.CharacterCounts.org

Name of Program: CHARACTER COUNTS!

Target Audience: Teachers, administrators, coaches, school support staff & admin., community youth service providers

Description:

CHARACTER COUNTS! (CC!) is the nation's most widely implemented approach to character education. It's an easy to implement framework based on the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship and an ethical decision making model. CC! is not an add-on and is designed to easily integrate into existing curriculum and programs. When implemented, CC! has a dramatic and lasting effect on school culture, and many organizations have reported dramatic drops in discipline referrals and negative behavior as soon as their first year of implementation.

To support educators and youth service professionals in their character development efforts, CHARACTER COUNTS! provides high quality training, educational resources, and consultation. The key to effective implementation is the Character Development Seminar (CDS), a three-day certification training designed to provide participants with all the tools and knowledge to effectively start or enhance a character development initiative. The CDS is a train-the-trainer seminar, and we recommend training at least 5-10% of an organization's total staff in the CDS. This group should be reflective of different roles and positions within an organization. These individuals will then train their colleagues and serve as onsite character development "experts". We hold trainings throughout the year in locations across the country. The full schedule can be found at www.charactercounts.org/CDS. There are also options to host a CDS or one-day in-service program locally.

In addition to training, CC! offers a wide variety of educational support materials including classroom activities and lessons based on the Six Pillars, parenting resources, music and video series, posters, banners, and more. There are also specialized resources available to address topics like bullying prevention, cheating prevention, and youth sports. All of our offerings can be found online at: www.charactercounts.org/materials.

Lastly, CHARACTER COUNTS! provides support and consultation to ensure that organizations achieve their character development goals using CC!. Member organizations and seminar graduates have unlimited access to our program staff to help them navigate issues such as program evaluation, building buy in, and sustainability.

Arizona residents also have many special services available to them. CC! has received bipartisan support for many years in Arizona. Originally formed under former Governor Hull and continued under Governor Napolitano, the state's character education initiative hosts in-state Character Development Seminars for Arizona residents and offers one-day workshops throughout the state.

To learn more, we encourage you to visit our website: www.CharacterCounts.org or contact us directly at 800-711-2670 or cc@jiethics.org. We are happy to answer any questions you may have and can work with you to develop an implementation plan for your community.

Character First! Education

Name of Provider: Character Training Institute

Publisher of Character First! Education curriculum

Contact Name: Kent Fahrenbruck

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Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Phone number: 405-815-0001

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E-Mail: kfahrenbruck@characterfirst.com

Name of Program: Character First! in-service training

Target audience: All school staff

Description:

Are you looking for solutions to the character challenges you face in the classroom? Are you looking for ways to teach your students how to make good decisions? If so, Character First! Education may offer the training and resources you need.

Training:

In-service training is vital so that teachers know how character can be integrated with their regular schools activities as they emphasize good character, correct character deficiencies and reinforce positive character with praise. Live training seminars (4 hours) can be scheduled to provide on site training for teachers and faculty, or schools can take advantage of a 6-part video series to train teachers at their own pace.

Curriculum:

The *Character First! Education* curriculum provides a host of lessons teachers can pick and choose to explain each character quality to their students. The curriculum includes a 16 page Teacher's Guide with stories, object lessons, reading assignments, or other activities for wither primary or secondary grade levels. Support materials such as posters, music, *Student Guides* (elementary, middle and secondary levels) and collectible *Character Cards* are also available to reinforce each lesson.

Implementation:

Most schools focus on nine character qualities each year – usually one per month. On the appointed day, teachers introduce the new quality, its definition, and five key concepts provided in the curriculum. This can be done during home room time, in a

school wide assembly, by counselors or by the classroom teacher. The quality is then reinforced throughout the following days and weeks using life's teachable moments plus activities and lessons selected from the Teacher's Guides. The last step is for teachers to follow an effective plan for praising their students as they see them exhibit good character in their lives. Character recognitions provide the positive affirmation needed to change student attitudes.

For more information regarding training and curriculum, please go to our website at www.characterfirst.com.

Creative Spirit

Contact Name: Spencer Gorin, C.O.O. of Creative Spirit

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Name of Program: Healthy Play Is a Solution / Joy in Learning Training and Consults

Target Audience: Teachers, youth service professionals and paraprofessionals, school support staff and administrators, students, community providers of youth services, parents.

Description: Build Character, Make School Playgrounds Safe, and Unite Your Staff in integrating the values of **caring, compassion, initiative, respect, personal responsibility, and trust** as an important part of daily instruction. These are the positive outcomes principals and teachers report seeing in their students after their Creative Spirit training program was implemented. Creative Spirit's Joy in Learning / Healthy Play Is a Solution is a program that works! Creative Spirit's **character education, classroom and playground management** and **anti-bullying** program offers educators and students simple, effective and even fun techniques to practice qualities of good character, support academic standards, and promote emotional and physical health. The same program also increases a school community's ability to readdress academics in a playful and nurturing manner without adding additional burdens for hard working teachers. Based on concepts from our book, *Learning to Play, Playing to Learn*, our trainings and materials can provide professional staff and school community members with strategies and practical "hands-on" game activities to recognize, reinforce, and practice character values and skills through mindful classroom and playground management. You can train your entire staff in the complete training through our six-hour training with individualized in-classroom consultations or select a few teachers for our Two-day Train the Trainer format. Unique to the Healthy play program, our staff can work directly with students and teachers in their classrooms. As an added benefit, your staff will experience a team-building approach, which will reduce stress, build morale, and inspire creativity through informative play and discussion.

Ignite for Schools

Contact Name: Sven Olson

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Contact Name: Jeff Blackman

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Website: www.igniteforschools.com

IGNITE specializes in empowering students to become part of the solution. We provide on-campus student training and coaching... on a regular monthly basis... to implement character initiatives and peer mentoring by giving students a voice and an opportunity to make a difference!

Ignite initiatives are built on research based promising practices on character development principles. There are two Ignite Grant opportunities for AZ schools:

The IGNITE CHARACTER Initiative (K-8) is a character based solution that has a cadre of "student ambassadors" who will be trained as role models for your campus. These student ambassadors are then formed into teams of three students... led by the older students... as they visit classrooms each month to share a character lesson. IGNITE will provide the on campus student training each month, based on character themes of the six pillars. One site coordinator from Michigan shares:

"More than just posters on the wall or words read during the weekly announcements, Ignite helps bring character to life and life to character."

Ignite has CHARACTER COUNTS! Certified trainers. Schools can choose between a 3 month or a 6 month implementation.

The IGNITE TRANSITIONS Peer Mentoring initiative (6-12 gr.) provides character based solutions, designed specifically to reduce disciplinary incidents, reduce dropout rates and improve school climate. Ignite is your training and implementation partner... right on your campus with your students. Each month Ignite trains student mentors to share life skills and character lessons with a small group of students that they mentor through the school year.

Premier, a member of the School Specialty Family

Contact Name: Suzanne Pearson

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Phone #: 866 -805-0792 **Fax #:** 215-542-9972

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Website: www.premier.us

Description of Services:

Premier, a member of the School Specialty Family, offers a variety of student agenda and video-based character education materials to meet the needs of Arizona schools. These include:

- * The Journey to Success primary and elementary agenda programs, based on the Pyramid of Success® and children's literature including *Inch and Miles* from Coach John Wooden, includes Facilitator Guide, DVD, Teacher Resource Guide, and posters.

- * Character for Life middle and high agenda programs, based on the Pyramid of Success® from Coach Wooden, and includes Character for Life DVD (12 lessons), Teacher Companion Booklet, Implementation DVD and poster.

- * The Premier Foundations Student Engagement Suite, based on Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, includes The **Foundations agenda** programs for students grades 1-12, the Premier Get Set and Go Programs for grades 6-8 (34 video lessons, workbooks/inserts, Teacher Resource Package), the Premier Ultimate Success Guide for Teens™ Program (workbooks and teacher guides) for grades 8-9. Premier Student Achievement Workshop (one-day event for students), Premier **discover7** Educator's Workshop (one-day workshop for educators).

The Premier agendas teach students responsibility, diligence, and orderliness of their commitments in and out of the classroom as they learn to set goals, record, and prioritize. Additionally, the Premier character education supplement for elementary students teaches the Arizona character qualities of caring, citizenship, respect, responsibility, and trustworthiness. The Premier character education supplement for middle and high school students teaches qualities including caring, citizenship, forgiveness, generosity, respect, and trustworthiness—all part of Arizona legislation.

Additionally, we offer the Premier Sunburst Media Character Development and Anti-Bullying Programs. There are 4 program kits that include lesson plans, DVDs,

workbooks/black line masters, family materials (English/Spanish), assessments and colorful classroom materials. Titles include: *Making Character Count*, *Building Good Character*, *Stop Bullying!*, and *Stand Up! Speak Out!*

Local Arizona representatives support the purchase and implementation of these products.

WiseSkills Resources (A CHARACTER COUNTS! Partner)

Contact Name: Seth Schapiro

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Name of Program: The WiseSkills Character-Building Program

Target Audience: Elementary, middle school, and high school educators

Description:

WiseSkills is a CHARACTER COUNTS! Partner that helps schools build a culture of character by *modeling, teaching, and reinforcing* principles of character throughout the year. The program unites schools, families, and communities in teaching important qualities such as *respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, perseverance, courage, self-discipline, caring*, and many other character skills that are critical for success both in and out of school. The WiseSkills K-12 curricula features a variety of practical resources for teachers and counselors, including across-the-curriculum activities, discussion ideas, multicultural quotations, journal writing ideas, brief classroom activities, service project ideas, biographies, reproducible pages, and more. Administrator materials help schools teach and reinforce good character through schoolwide activities such as contests and awards, PA announcements, visual displays, and special events and programs. For elementary and middle schools, WiseSkills includes reproducible parent newsletters and activity pages to help families teach character at home.

The WiseSkills Training is a one-day, interactive workshop that provides an entire school with a thorough orientation to the WiseSkills character education program. Participants will learn the difference between teaching *knowledge* and teaching *wisdom*, how to use the interdisciplinary WiseSkills curricula, and gain practical strategies to build a school culture where positive character is modeled and reinforced by adults. Teachers will gain stimulating ideas for designing simple classroom activities using the multicultural quotations featured in the curricula. Because

the WiseSkills curricula uses the words and lives of great role models in history, teachers will learn how to integrate WiseSkills across-the-curriculum. Participants work together in grade-level groups or teams to strategize specific ways to connect the program to academic subject areas, especially language arts and social studies. For schools using **CHARACTER COUNTS!**, the training helps teachers infuse the ***Six Pillars of Character*** into academic subject areas. The workshop provides opportunities for interaction and engages participants in a variety of activities, including brainstorming, discussion, reading, writing, and role-playing. The WiseSkills Training can also include parent/community volunteers, who learn how to be effective community liaisons. Volunteers receive guidelines for finding local career speakers and arranging community service-learning projects throughout the school year. Also available are practical **Implementation Kits** which provide ready-to-use video trainings for the *School Leadership Team* and for the entire school staff. Implementation Kits also include schoolwide activity ideas, Implementation Guides, and evaluations and assessments.